REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and thus unpatentable over the Gloger reference (U.S. No. 6,838,980) and further in view of the Shuman reference (Pat. Pub. No. US 2003/0065432). In response, independent claim 1 has been amended, and it is submitted that claim 1 as amended and claims 2-9 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the proposed combination of references.

Claim 1 relates to a pre-crash sensing system for a vehicle safety system, which utilizes an object identification list and an object classification list for updating the classification list only one time for each detected object. With this invention, relatively low-powered processors can detect a significant number of objects and rapidly provide classifications for the objects within a substantially short cycle time. In contrast, in the Gloger reference, the system described therein continuously classifies the same detected object over multiple cycles as long as the object is in a region of interest. Accordingly, the Gloger reference does not teach the applicant's inventive system nor does it recognize the problem solved by the Applicant's invention.

Further, in the Shuman reference, the system described therein only classifies objects that have not been previously identified by the system. It is understood that a relatively low-powered processor, which analyzes a high number of objects in one cycle, may identify an object yet lack sufficient time within the cycle for classifying that object. In that case, the Shuman system may detect the same object again in a later sensing cycle, determine that the object has been previously identified, and therefore bypass a classification subroutine for that object even though it has not yet been assigned a classification. Conversely, with the applicant's invention, the inventive system classifies all objects that have not been previously classified by the system. Thus, the claimed system can include a low-powered inexpensive processor for classifying all objects and rapidly updating a classification list for the vehicle safety system.

Allowance of the subject matter in dependent claims 10-20 is noted and appreciated. Accordingly, by this Amendment, claims 11 and 16 have been respectively amended to include the subject matter of claim 1. While claims 11 and 16 are directed to a method for operating a pre-crash sensing system, the subject matter of claims 11 and 16 are further
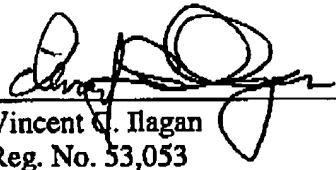
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presented herewith in claims 21 and 22, which are directed to the pre-crash sensing system recited in claims 1, 11, and 16. New claims 23-27 depend from claim 21 and are allowable therewith.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 1-4 and 6-27, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 3, 2005